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# OPINION

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## Race Still an Issue in New Orleans

Rebuilding process is biased



BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

August will mark the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. While the storm affected other Gulf Coast cities, the country paid the most at-

tention to New Orleans, and with good reason. The nation quickly realized that the majority of those trapped in the flooded city, without food or water, were black and poor.

The public dialogue, for a short time at least, focused on race and poverty and the ways the two often intersect. Today, race is still very much an issue in New Orleans: The city's black residents are having a hard time rebuilding their lives and many believe their race is the reason behind their hardships.

According to a study released by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a think tank that focuses on public policy issues, a majority of both white and African-Americans felt the affects of Katrina immediately after the storm. However, African-Americans are still struggling with the storm's impact, while whites seem to be doing better.

In post-Katrina New Orleans, African-Americans are also twice as likely as whites to be unemployed. 47 percent of African-Americans say their financial situation has declined, post-

storm, compared to only 32 percent of whites. And, in a city that saw the average rent increase from \$500 to \$1,500 per month, 56 percent of African-Americans say their housing costs have risen significantly, compared to 42 percent of white.

Rebuilding efforts in the Lower Ninth Ward, a predominantly poor and working class black community are slow going. Many residents in African-American neighborhoods

comparison, less than 20 percent of whites believe the rebuilding process is biased.

Unfortunately, much of the media, moving on to other stories, has turned its attention away from New Orleans, leaving our brothers and sisters to cope in silence. It is time for the country to turn its attention once again towards the Big Easy, this time with the goal of addressing the social and political issues that could create an en-

Perhaps New Orleans could serve as a model for other cities and develop a plan for ending race and economic disparities.

can't obtain the permits they need to rebuild. And still others say they can't get the basic city services—electricity, for example—they need to lead their lives. Not surprisingly, resident's thoughts on the rebuilding process are also split along racial lines. According to the report, 55 percent of African-Americans in New Orleans believed they aren't receiving the same opportunities to rebuild as whites. In com-

environment where so many black people could live with so little.

Perhaps New Orleans could serve as a model for other cities and the country could, once and for all, develop a plan for ending race and economic disparities.

Judge Greg Mathis is national vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



### ODOT IS KEEPING OREGON ON THE MOVE

**Interstate 5 is under construction!**

Be safe, be prepared and be patient as the Oregon Department of Transportation repairs and modernizes our highways and bridges.

Between Portland and Medford, drivers will pass through 19 active construction zones on I-5 in 2007. In the Portland metro area,

crews are currently replacing two highway bridges outside Wilsonville, and a paving project between Capitol Highway and the Tualatin River will be complete this fall.

How can you prepare? Stay informed with up-to-the-minute information about traffic and construction by visiting TripCheck.com or calling 5-1-1.

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## THE SPINAL COLUMN™

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**Q:** I always seem to be plagued with headaches. They come up over my head and seem to stop at my eye. What can Chiropractic possibly do to help me?

**A:** About 70% of all people experience headaches of one sort or another. The type you describe is quite typical. The pain can range anywhere from moderate to nauseating. The top three nerves in the neck go up over the back of the skull in a very similar pattern to what you describe. Any type of pressure or irritation on these nerves can cause extreme pain. Your problems could be

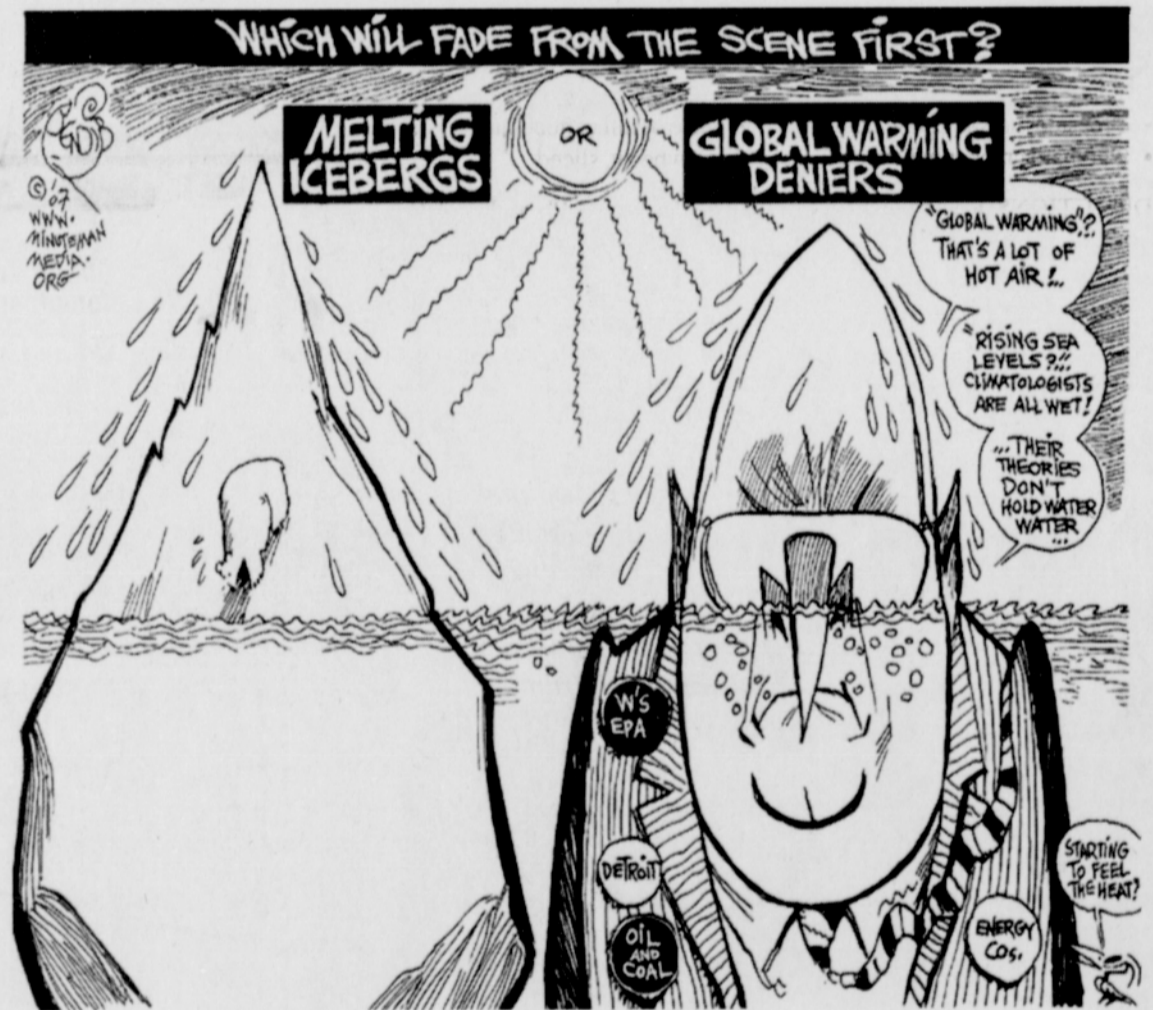
nerve-related and therefore, stand a very good chance of being relieved by Chiropractic.

**Q:** Why should I go through a full course of Chiropractic when drugs often relieve my headaches?

**A:** Drugs work primarily on relieving pain, but not on treating the cause of the headache.

What's more, drugs have serious side effects. The only side effects of Chiropractic are relief from pain and a healing of the cause of pain. To find out how Chiropractic could help relieve your headaches or for answers to any questions you might have about your health, please call us at the telephone number listed directly below.

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## The Movement Was in Her DNA

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. issued the following statement May 16 on the untimely death of Yolanda King, eldest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King:

"Today is a sad day. I received the call in the middle of the night and I was shocked, stunned and saddened.

I've known Yolanda since she was 8-years-old and I've watched her grow up and serve the Movement so well.

Yolanda lived with a lot of the trauma of our struggle. She was in the house in Montgomery when it was bombed; she was old enough to remember when her father was stabbed; old enough to remember when her father was jailed in Birmingham; and she

remembered the day that her father was killed in Memphis. The movement was in her DNA.

Yolanda participated in marches with us. As the King children got older, they all marched with us. I remember how much her father and her mother loved her, loved them all.

As Yolanda matured, she became an actress and spokesperson in her own right, carrying with her a lot of her mother's quiet, stoic dignity.

The suddenness of Yolanda's transition leaves us all traumatized. Fate has dealt us a cruel blow, so I pray fervently on this sad day. We must fight fate with faith and as we carry on in our faith we do so with a heavy heart."

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